

Snow. Snow. Snow. And more snow. Those are the weather stories around Montana these days! It's snowing out my window at this very moment. While that really has nothing to do with the contents of this email, it does make me more and more excited to be on vacation next week with my family. For this reason, I will be unavailable from Saturday, March 8 until Sunday, March 16. I will be back in the office Monday, March 17 for one day. Then, I'll be in Big Sky for the Montana ProStart Competition on March 18, in Helena for OPI/OCHE Big Sky Pathway Meetings March 19-20, and then heading to Billings on March 21 for the Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference until March 25. So, once I get back from vacation, I'll do my best to answer any questions/emails as time allows that week.

## *2013-2014 CTE Student Participation Reports*

The 2013-2014 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student Participation Reports are now available for completion via an on-line link. The link is posted on the Secondary CTE web page and also located here: <http://www.keysurvey.com/f/345142/20c3>

Any high school district planning to apply for Carl D. Perkins and/or State VoEd funding for next year must submit Participation Reports by all CTE teachers for all CTE programs at your high school. Please make sure that each CTE teacher completes their report and electronically submits it to the OPI by the **due date extended to March 15, 2014**.

## *Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshop*

Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshops: these one day workshops will be conducted in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn on April 29 and 30. The second day will be a repeat of the first session so participant can choose which day to attend. This activity is sponsored as part of our Carl D. Perkins Professional Development Program. OPI Renewal Credits will be offered. For more information including the flyer, agenda, and application, please visit the website at <http://www.mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/default.asp>.

## *CTE Update – March*

Would you like to know what is happening in CTE across Montana? The latest CTE Update from OPI has been posted to our web page. You can find it here: [http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1\\_15](http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_15).

## *2014 Montana Financial Education Coalition Statewide Conference and Resource Fair*

The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) presents "Financial Security for a Lifetime". The 2014 MFEC Statewide Conference and Resource Fair will host the TODAY Show's Jean Chatzky as the Keynote Presenter. Ms. Chatzky is AARP's Financial Ambassador, a best-selling author, an award-winning personal finance journalist, finance editor for NBC's TODAY show, and the host of Money Matters with Jean Chatzky on RLTV.



WHEN: April 28 and 29, 2014

WHERE: Helena's Red Lion Colonial Hotel

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

- Jean Chatzky – Keynote Presentation.
- Participate in a panel discussion with Jean Chatzky and Montana's leaders of Commerce and Finance.
- Breakout sessions from 10:45am to 5:00pm and lunch on Tuesday, April 29.
- Come learn about the latest issues and programs in financial education. Choose from a broad range of workshops covering topics for all age groups, from youth to seniors.
- Learn in depth about issues of fraud and abuse, school-based instruction, how to retire with dignity and how to empower low and moderate income households by attending multiple workshops on these topics.
- Scholarships are available – apply when you register or contact [mfec@mt-mfec.org](mailto:mfec@mt-mfec.org)
- Vote for the winners of MFEC's financial literacy poster contest for kids, "While money can't buy happiness, it certainly can..."
- Apply for a \$500 grant to fund your financial education program in your community!
- Complete agenda will be posted on the website soon.

Visit the [website](http://www.mtmfec.org) for more information and conference registration at [www.mtmfec.org](http://www.mtmfec.org)!

*(Note: I was elected as a Board Member of this Coalition almost two years ago to represent OPI; the MFEC is comprised of dedicated individuals to financial education for all ages across Montana. I'm confident this day will be full of great workshops, networking and information! I hope to see some of you there.)*

## Montana FCS Job Openings

The following FCS position is open in Montana:

- Chester-Joplin-Inverness – Chester, MT  
<http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/6621567F-3B9ACA00-034D7DA8>

## ProStart Educator Summer Institutes

Each summer, the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation offers Educator Summer Updates in levels 1 to 4. Restaurant management and culinary arts educators from across the nation have shared the dynamic, inspiring and enriching experience of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Summer Institutes. The goal of the Summer Institutes is to provide educators with a forum to learn cutting-edge skills, which they can take back to the classroom. Skill development focuses on both industry skills and teaching pedagogy. These weeklong intensive workshops are delivered by industry and academic experts.

For a full listing of sites and dates for the 2014 Summer Institutes, click [here](#) or visit [www.nraef.org](http://www.nraef.org). Registration is now open. The Institutes cost \$675 for five days of instruction and include classroom and lab supplies, kitchen starter kit (level 1 only), instructional materials, opening reception, tour of an industry site, and daily breakfast, lunch and dinner.

(Note: A few Montana educators go each summer, and they have really enjoyed these classes. Consider asking in our FCS FB group if others are planning to attend or checking with the Montana ProStart Coordinator, Joan Leik at joanleik@gmail.com)

## *Scholarships for HS Seniors Pursuing Nutrition Careers*

Again this year, the Montana School Nutrition Association (MTSNA) and Western Marketing are once again offering three \$500 dollar scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a career in the nutritional field. Please go on our website or OPI's web site for the current application. The link is:

[http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/SchoolFood/CurrentNews/MT\\_SNA\\_ScholarshipApp.pdf](http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/SchoolFood/CurrentNews/MT_SNA_ScholarshipApp.pdf). Please share this opportunity with your students!

## *Thought of the Day*

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."  
– Charles M. Schulz

## *Calendar of Events*

March 8 – 16, 2014: Vacation for Megan – out of the office and unavailable  
March 18, 2014: Montana ProStart's Annual Invitational & Wheat Montana High School Baking Competition, Big Sky, MT  
March 23 – 25, 2014: [MT FCCLA State Leadership Conference](#), Billings, MT  
April 9 – 11, 2014: [Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Spring Conference](#), Big Sky, MT  
April 23 – 26, 2014: [ACTE Region V Conference](#), Mandan, ND  
April 28 – 29, 2014: [Montana Financial Education Coalition Statewide Conference & Resource Fair](#), Helena, MT  
April 29 or 30, 2014: [Montana Big Sky Pathways & Dual Enrollment Workshop](#), Bozeman, MT  
May 3 – 5, 2014: [National ProStart Invitational](#), Minneapolis, MN  
May 4 – 7, 2014: NASAFACS Spring Meeting, Reno, NV  
June 6 – 8, 2014: Montana CTSO Leadership Camp, Bigfork, MT  
June 16 – 18, 2014: [National Career Clusters Institute](#), Phoenix, AZ  
June 25 – 28, 2014: [AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo](#), St. Louis, MO  
July 6 – 10, 2014: [FCCLA National Leadership Conference](#), San Antonio, TX

## *Facebook Group Links*

Montana FCS Educators Group: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/168470129878554/>  
Montana FCCLA Chapter Advisers Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/248102661886036/>

*\*Both are closed groups – click on link and ask to be added for some great conversation & resources!*